

# DECISION RECORD & CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW

**Project Name:** Plantation Thin 6A (Fuels Reduction)

**(CE OR116-09-01)**

**BLM Office:** Ashland R.A., Medford District. Phone # (541) 618-2200

**DESCRIPTION & LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposes to reduce hazardous fuels by slashing and handpile burning non-commercial sized vegetation on BLM-administered lands in the Jenny Creek watershed. The objective is to reduce hazardous fuels on lands with heavy recreation use adjacent to Howard Prairie Reservoir. The project area is approximately 30 acres of small diameter conifer forest in T39S, R4E, in Sections 5 and 6; W.M. surveyed Jackson County OR. (See map). All work will be done manually (slash, handpile and burn) with follow up underburning for maintaining treatment areas. This work will help to reduce the threat of wildland fire from burning across public lands and threatening surrounding recreational developments and aesthetic values, range fences, private lands, and Bureau of Reclamation land. This work has been coordinated with Bureau of Reclamation and Jackson County Parks.

## PLAN CONFORMANCE

The proposed action is in compliance with and is tiered to the *Medford District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (RMP)* as amended by the *Record of Decision To Remove the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines from the Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Plans Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (USDI 2007). The 1995 Medford District Resource Management Plan incorporated the *Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl and the Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (Northwest Forest Plan) (USDA and USDI 1994).

The proposed action and alternatives are in conformance with the direction given for the management of public lands in the Medford District by the Oregon and California Lands Act of 1937 (O&C Act), Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, the Clean Water Act of 1987, Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 (as amended 1986 and 1996), Clean Air Act, and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979.

## CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW

Department of the Interior Manual 516 DM 2, Appendix 2 provides for a review of the following criteria for categorical exclusion to determine if exceptions apply to the proposed action based on actions which may:

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Categorical Exclusion Exception</u>
( )	(X)	1. Have significant adverse effects on public health or safety.
( )	(X)	2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resource; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.
( )	(X)	3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)] not already decided in an approved land use plan.
( )	(X)	4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or unique or unknown environmental risks.
( )	(X)	5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.

- ( ) (X) 6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but significant cumulative environmental effects. (40 CFR 1508.7 and 1508.25(a)).
- ( ) (X) 7. Have adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.
- ( ) (X) 8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.
- ( ) (X) 9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.
- ( ) (X) 10. Have disproportionate significant adverse impacts on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).
- ( ) (X) 11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).
- ( ) (X) 12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or nonnative invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).

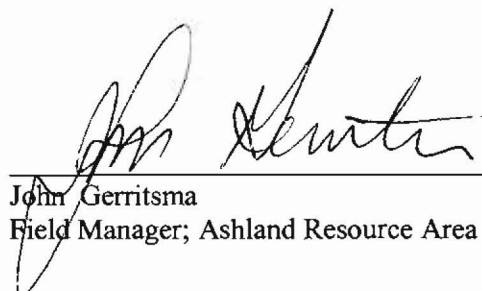
### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The proposed action has been reviewed against the twelve criteria for an exception to a categorical exclusion and does not fall under any exception as identified in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2. The project qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11, Section 11.9, C (4) and D (10).

Prepared by	Title	Date
Kristi Mastrofino	Env. Coord.	10/27/08
Reviewed by	Title	Date

### DECISION

Based on the NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW above, I have determined that the proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11, Section 11.9, C (4) and D (10), involves no significant impact to the human environment, and that no further environmental analysis is required.

  
John Gerritsma  
Field Manager; Ashland Resource Area

10/27/08  
Date

## **Administrative Remedy**

The forest management decision described in this categorical exclusion is subject to protest under 43 CFR subpart 5003. Under 43 CFR 5003.3 subsection (a), protests may be filed with the authorized officer within 15 days of the notification date of a decision. The date this Decision Record is published on BLM's Website serves as the effective date of this decision. Under 43 CFR 5003.3 (b), protest filed with the authorized officer shall contain a written statement of reasons for protesting the decision. A decision on this protest would be subject to appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, although, under 43 CFR 5003.1 subsection (a), filing a notice of appeal under 43 CFR part 4 does not automatically suspend the effect of a decision governing or relating to forest management under 43 CFR 5003.2 or 5003.3.